

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On Page 5 of the specification, please amend the only paragraph in the "Brief description of the drawing" section as follows:

The drawing illustrates embodiments of the invention. In the drawing

- Fig. 1 shows a covering device in accordance with the invention in a simplified cross-section,
- Fig. 2 shows an extruded profile for the combined manufacture of the profiled cover and two compensating strips for a covering device in accordance with the Fig. 1 in cross-section,
- Fig. 3 shows the profiled cover with the compensating strips in cross-section after the lands have been severed,
- Fig. 4 shows a representation corresponding to Fig. 1 of a design variation for a covering device in accordance with the invention,
- Fig. 5 shows an extruded profile for the combined manufacture of the profiled cover and two compensating strips for the covering device in accordance with Fig. 4 in cross-section, the

Fig. 6 to 9 show representations of extruded profiles corresponding to Fig. 2 and 5 for differing profiled covers and compensating strips, ~~and~~

Fig. 10 shows a profiled cover with a compensating strip in accordance with Fig. 9 in an interim installation position in cross-section, and

Fig. 11 shows the covering device shown in Fig. 1 with additional elements of the covering device labeled.

On Page 7, please add the following new paragraphs after the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 and before the first full paragraph on Page 7:

A first contact surface 35 on the underside of covering flange 6, in the area directly above and near the compensating strip 5, is labeled in FIG. 11. FIG. 11 shows that this first contact surface 35 includes all of the area on the underside of covering flange 6 between the two lines shown in FIG. 11 that extend from reference number 35. A second contact surface 30 on the underside of covering flange 6 in the area directly above and near floor covering 2 is also labeled in FIG. 11. FIG. 11 shows that the second contact surface 30 includes at least all of the area on the underside of covering flange 6 in between the two lines shown in FIG. 1 that extend from reference number 30.

A groove section 34 in the covering flange 6 is labeled in FIG. 11 and is a portion of the first contact surface 35. Groove section 34 includes longitudinal groove 14 and the flat areas of the underside of the covering flange 6 immediately adjacent the longitudinal groove 14, and is shown in FIG. 11 as including all of the area on the underside of covering flange 6 in between the two lines shown in FIG. 11 that extend from reference number 34.

FIG. 11 shows that the first contact surface 35 extends past the clamping web 33 in the direction to the right of the profiled cover 4 on a first side 32 of profiled cover 4. FIG. 11 also shows that the second contact surface 30 extends past this clamping web 33 on a second side 31 of the profiled cover 4 in the direction to the left of clamping web 33 of profiled cover 4.